



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Electoral Amendment Bill 2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Dr Paterson on 3 February 2022:

In relation to:

How many 16 and 17 year olds are currently provisionally enrolled in the ACT?

Do young people enrol just before an election or is it an ongoing thing that 16 and 17 year olds are aware that they can enrol now, so they do?

Does the ABS have statistics on the approximate number of 16 and 17 year olds in the ACT?

Damian Cantwell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

There were 25 16 year olds and 125 17 year olds provisionally enrolled on the ACT electoral roll as at 31 December 2021.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) website indicates there were 4,510 residents aged 16, and 4,611 residents aged 17, living in the ACT as at 30 June 2020. (see www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/jun-2021). These figures presumably include a small number of non-citizens ineligible to enrol or vote.

Therefore approximately 0.6% of the eligible 16 year olds, and approximately 2.8% of the eligible 17 year olds, are provisionally enrolled on the ACT Electoral roll. These figures clearly indicate a very low take up by eligible 16 and 17 year olds in the ACT to provisionally enrol.

Data from both ACT and federal elections indicates that electoral events significantly impact the rate of enrolment of newly eligible young Australians. To highlight this, at the close of polling for the 2020 ACT election, the enrolment rate of 18 year olds was estimated to be 83.5% of the eligible enrolment population. Seven months later this rate had dropped to 56.7%. Accuracy and timeliness of enrolment of all eligible ACT electors is a high priority for the ACT Electoral Commission and the AEC as joint roll partners.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

Date: 8 February 2022

By the ACT Electoral Commissioner, Damian Cantwell AM CSC

